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Egypt-Jordan

Jordan's King Husayn announced that he will visit Egypt "at the first available opportunity," MENA reported citing *AL-AHRAM*. Although Jordanian sources quoted by *AL-AHRAM* predicted that Jordan and Egypt will exchange ambassadors shortly, Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid told journalists in Jordan that ambassadors will not be exchanged at present, according to Jordan's *AL-RA'Y*. Meanwhile, an Egyptian source speculated that the joint statement to be issued at the end of Husayn's talks with President Husni Mubarak will announce measures aimed at establishing "some form of unity" between the two countries, Radio Monte Carlo reported.

Answering questions on his talks with Husayn at a news conference broadcast by Amman television, Mubarak said their discussions covered possible future moves on the Palestine issue as well as the need to unify Palestinian ranks and renounce "estrangement and fragmentation." Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Majid described the Jordanian-Egyptian talks as "successful," adding that Egypt welcomes any initiative aimed at a peaceful solution of the Palestine question, Amman radio noted.

Israeli Policy on Lebanon, Egypt

Israel will make a decision on withdrawal from Lebanon "within a few weeks," Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stated in a Jerusalem television interview from Washington. In Israel, Foreign Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told Jerusalem television that Israel is likely to formulate "some sort of program" for withdrawal "within 3 weeks." As for policy toward Egypt, Peres asserted that "it does not matter what the Egyptian statements are at this moment," but Shamir viewed Egyptian official Usamah al-Baz's recent criticism of Israel as a "grave blow" to the chances of peace.

Lebanon

Spanish Ambassador — The Spanish ambassador was freed hours after being kidnapped by youths demanding the release of two Shi'ites arrested in Madrid last month for shooting a Libyan diplomat, AFP reported. The Amal movement, which was instrumental in securing the ambassador's release, said the abductors were relatives or friends of the men detained in Spain.

Abu Nadir's Appointment — Fu'ad Abu Nadir's appointment as Lebanese Forces commander will not change the Phalangist military establishment's good relations with Israel, according to a Phalangist Party source cited by Israel's *HA'ARETZ*. Nevertheless, the Damascus paper *AL-THAWRAH* welcomed former commander Fadi Afram's "downfall" as a defeat for Israel and for the section of the Phalangist leadership that "dealt" with Israel, SANA reported. Abu Nadir's appointment has restored the Phalangist political leadership's control over its military wing and is another victory for President Amin al-Jumayyil following his earlier success in securing Elie Karamah's election as Phalangist Party leader, *AL-THAWRAH* contended.

Syria-USSR

President Hafiz al-Asad will pay a "cordial working visit" to the Soviet Union in the middle of October, Damascus television disclosed.

Saudi-Brazilian Arms Agreement

A protocol for military industrial cooperation was signed in Brasilia by Saudi Defense Minister Prince Sultan and the Brazilian foreign minister, SPA disclosed. As described by Sao Paolo radio, the agreement provides for the manufacture of Brazilian weapons in Saudi Arabia and their export to Arab countries, as well as technological transfer and personnel training.

Iran

A "sub-critical" nuclear reactor at the Esfahan nuclear technology center will become operational by the end of March 1985, IRNA announced, adding that the research reactor had been "completely designed and built by about 100 Iranian nuclear staff experts."

DRA

A bomb heavily damaged Afghanistan's Supreme Court, prompting strict security measures at official buildings in Kabul, Tehran radio claimed citing Afghan revolutionary sources. The same sources stated that 70,000 fresh Soviet troops recently joined the 115,000 already stationed at strategic points.

Chad Withdrawal

The Chadian Government has approved the joint supervision by France and Libya of the withdrawal of their forces, an official communique carried by Ndjamena radio stated. It added that the government "has taken every measure" to ensure that the joint withdrawal "will really and effectively take place."

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PNC Members in Jordan To Meet 'Arafat in Tunis

JN101012 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 10 Oct 84

[Text] Amman — The Palestinian revolution's leadership extended invitations to a number of PNC members and Palestinian political figures in Jordan yesterday to meet with Yasir 'Arafat and the Palestinian revolution's leadership in Tunis for consultations on the PLO's current position and on convening the PNC's 17th session, which is expected to be held in Algiers. Those invited are: Dr As'ad 'Abd al-Rahman, lawyer 'Abd al-'Aziz Saqr, Mrs In'am 'Abd al-Hadi, engineer Ibrahim Abu 'Ayyash, Hamid Abu Sittah, Dr Hanna Nasir, 'Abd al-Rahim Ahmad, engineer Fahd al-Qawasimah, Muhammad Milhim, Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Salih, Yasir 'Amr, Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Haj Ahmad, Dr Janil Maraqah, 'Abd al-Majid Shuman, Samir al-Khatib, 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya, and Archbishop Iliya Khuri.

AL-BAYAN Foresees 'Arafat Visit to Jordan

GF102010 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 9 Oct 84 pp 1, 14

[Excerpts] Algiers — Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, will arrive in Algeria today to hold talks with Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid to discuss the subject of the PNC meeting in Algeria.

Diplomatic sources in Algeria stated that if Algeria agreed to host the PNC, then 'Arafat will call for the convocation of the council shortly. If Algeria cannot host the meeting, then it is expected that Yasir 'Arafat will go to the Jordanian capital, Amman. These sources expect that 'Arafat's visit will take place during Mubarak's visit to Jordan where an Egyptian-Jordanian-Palestinian summit will be held, or immediately after the conclusion of Mubarak's visit, in order to learn from King Husayn the results of Mubarak's talks in the Jordanian capital.

A responsible Palestinian source expected that 'Arafat and Khalaf will head for Algeria within the next 24 hours to hold comprehensive talks with President Chadli Bendjedid on the extent of his country's readiness to host the upcoming PNC session.

Fatah Central Committee Resumes Meetings

JN101718 Baghdad Voice of PLO in Arabic 1613 GMT 10 Oct 84

[Text] With Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] attending, the Fatah Central Committee resumed its meetings in Tunis yesterday. Our radio correspondent said that the Committee discussed the latest developments in holding the PNC and the efforts being exerted to achieve this goal. The correspondent added that the committee also discussed the results of Abu 'Ammar's visit to the GDR, during which he participated in the GDR's 35th national day celebrations.

Fatah Meeting Blames U.S. for PNC Postponement

JN052004 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1935 GMT 5 Oct 84

[Text] Tunis, 5 Oct (INA) -- The Fatah Central Committee ended a meeting that began here earlier today. The meeting was attended by Fatah Revolutionary Council members, Fatah Military Council Members, leaders of Palestinian popular organizations, and officials of Fatah's social, economic, and cultural bodies.

Palestinian sources said that the meeting, which was attended by 500 Fatah cadres, lasted 3 hours and was addressed by PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and a number of Fatah Central Committee members. The Palestinian news agency WAFA said the speakers stressed the importance of and the need for convening the PNC as soon as possible, referring to the attempts to play down the importance of the problems and the pressures being brought to bear to postpone the meeting in order to paralyze the efficiency of the Palestinian people's elected institutions, striking at the PLO, and creating alternatives to it.

In their speeches the Fatah Central Committee members asserted that there is a U.S. decision to prevent the PNC meeting. President Reagan's administration is exercising all sorts of pressures to realize this end. They said that these attempts will not succeed and that the Palestinian people, represented by their leadership and legitimate, revolutionary organizations, will defeat this plot.

The Central Committee members expressed hope that Algeria would respond to the efforts aimed at convening the PNC in Algiers, particularly since Algeria is one of the signitories to and a party bound by the Algiers-Aden agreement.

WAFA explained that a Fatah Central Committee delegation will visit Algiers in the next few days to hold official talks with the Algerian leadership. The delegation will acquaint Algerian leaders with the Fatah leadership's recent resolutions regarding the issue of convening the PNC and the need to speed up this process in order to reinforce the unity of the Palestinian National Action factions away from all forms of custodianship and subservience and to protect independent Palestinian decisionmaking, represented in the PLO and its legitimate leadership, from future dangers. It is to be noted that today's Fatah meeting marks the conclusion of the series of meetings that began in Tunis on Monday in the presence of 'Arafat.

Palestinians Issue Statement on PNC Meeting

GF101750 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 10 Oct 84

[Text] Following repeated meetings which included the Palestinian leadership and cadres in Yemen and following a final meeting which was held at the PLO office in Sanaa in order to discuss the objectiveness of the convocation of the PNC and its delay, the participants — after much discussion — agreed to send the following cable [not further specified]:

The Palestinian revolution forces — which under your leadership fought honorable battles for the Arab nation in confronting the

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JORDAN TIMES on 'Arafat Gulf Tour, PNC Venue

JN170958 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Oct 84 pp 1, 5

[Lamis K. Andoni dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat Tuesday left Tunisia on a tour that will take him to a number of Arab Gulf states to consult with their leaders on the latest developments on the Arab and Palestinian arenas. The *JORDAN TIMES* has learnt that during his tour, which will include Kuwait, Dubai, Baghdad, Saudi Arabia and North Yemen, the PLO leader will explore possibilities of holding the PNC, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, in one of the Gulf states in case Algeria refused to host the 17th session of the PNC.

Mr 'Arafat's tour comes in the aftermath of an announcement by more than 80 Palestinian personalities, who concluded meetings with the PLO leadership Sunday in Tunis, that the PNC should meet by the end of November. The PLO leadership here seems confident that it can convene the PNC with the required quorum by the end of November with the participation of major Palestinian factions, despite Syrian objections. The leadership has drawn its confidence from the positive response to Mr 'Arafat's call on independent Palestinian personalities to gather in Tunis last Saturday for consultations and a series of intensive contacts that the Central Committee of Fatah, the mainstream faction and Mr 'Arafat's powerbase within the PLO. [sentence as published]

According to reliable Palestinian sources, most Palestinian factions except the Syrian-backed "National Alliance" and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) of George Habash are expected to attend the planned PNC session. The sources said that the PFLP remains reluctant to participate in the planned session if a Syrian-Palestinian reconciliation was not reached. The sources added, however, that contacts with the PFLP will continue and that the leadership has not given up hope that the PFLP might even eventually participate.

On the other hand, Palestinian officials here say that members of the Central Committee of Fatah and many members of the PLO Executive Committee, even those who are known to have been staunch supporters of strong strategic ties with Syria, Mr Faruq Qaddumi for instance, seem to have lost all hopes that Syria will change its position or abandon its demand for the resignation of Mr 'Arafat. Moreover, the leadership here believes that convening the PNC will not necessarily lead to further splits in the PLO since most key factions have already agreed on the principle of convening the PNC by the end of november. "The division in the Palestinian arena is already there but we hope that the PFLP will not choose to join the other side 'the National Alliance,'" said a Fatah Central Committee member.

Agreeing on a venue to hold the PNC remains a major obstacle that has provoked serious debate here. All Palestinian factions agree that Algeria is the most logic choice. But the Algerians have not given a final answer yet and is still dicussing the issue with representatives of the "National Alliance" who arrived in the Algerian capital last week amidst a strong feeling of dismay among the PLO leadership here. The deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad), was supposed to leave for Algeria Tuesday to continue discussions on Algeria hosting the PNC but it seemed that the Algerians were still busy and could not receive a Fatah delegation yet. The Fatah Central Committee, according to Palestinian sources, has decided not to send a delegation until they are invited by the Algerians. But according to a senior Fatah official, the Central Committee has still hopes of Algeria hosting the PNC.

WAFA Editor Criticizes Remarks by Ahmad Jibril

LD161002 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 15 Oct 84

[Text] "There Is No Way Except the Palestinian Way" is the title of an article by WAFA's political editor in reply to recent statements by Ahmad Jibril:

Ahmad Jibril, and nobody else, is revealing all the cards and all the players and all the rules of the conspiracy game in which three Arab countries participated. As Jibril said, the participants were Syria, Libya, and South Yemen and eight Palestinian organizations: PFLP, DFLP [Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine], Al-Sa'iqah, the General Command, the Popular Struggle, 'Abd al-Fatah Ghanim of the Palestinian Liberation Front, the Communist Party, and the dissident group opposed to the PLO and its legitimate leadership.

The WAFA political editor adds: It is amazing and poses more than one question that Ahmad Jibril was commissioned to make this statement in the magazine of the Syrian Nationalist Party, especially after the brave rebellion of 'Isam al-Mahayri which engulfed the party leadership. For this to occur, especially at this time, is a matter which would stop even a passerby. We, as a Palestinian revolution, could not care less about answering Ahmad Jibril. As they say in the ancient proverb: The dog barks but the caravan moves on.What concerns us is the meaning behind the instruction to Ahmad Jibril, at this specific moment, to say what he said in *SABAH AL-KHAYR* and to reveal that the regimes in Damascus, Tripoli, and Aden and the organizations of left-wing violence and armed struggle had been planning, organizing, and arranging since 1978 to strike at and to liquidate the Palestinian leadership.

Ahmad Jibril, and nobody else, reveals the secret of the position taken by the Damascus regime during the Zionist storming of Beirut, when that regime signed the cease-fire agreement with the invasion army and withdrew its own army. Ahmad Jibril also reveals the secret of the position adopted by these same Palestinian organizations when they repeatedly insisted and appealed to Abu 'Ammar to agree to leave Beirut, go to Damascus, and accept all the conditions of invasion.

To be absolutely honest, Ahmad Jibril in his historic press interview — if history still has a meaning for some people — was very polite in his use of swear words addressed to the leadership of the Palestinian people, to the Fatah leadership, and to its leader Yasir 'Arafat, as compared with the swear words, insults and accusations of opportunism, weakness, revisionism, and even implicit treason which he addressed to the leaders of the great Palestinian left, specifically the two leaders George Habash and

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Iran-Iraq Conflict

Iraqi Warning, Contacts — At a Baghdad press conference reported by Paris Radio Monte Carlo, the Iraqi information and culture minister warned Iran that Iraq will destroy 70 selected Iranian economic targets if the Iranians launch a new "aggression" against Iraq. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak telephoned President Saddam Husayn to inquire about the situation at the front and congratulate the Iraqi leader on the latest Iraqi "victory," according to Baghdad radio.

Meymak Fighting — IRNA reported a lull in the fighting but updated its estimate of Iraqi losses to 3,800 casualties and 30 tanks. However, an Iraqi communique broadcast by Baghdad radio said the Iraqi Army and Air Force dealt further blows to the Iranians, killing another 400 men and destroying 9 tanks and over 450 other vehicles. Total Iranian losses in Meymak have reached 2,499, the communique added.

Iran-Turkey

Turkish Interior Minister Ali Tanriyar said on his departure from Iran, after meeting with the president, prime minister, and interior minister, that he was "very satisfied" with his visit, according to IRNA. In their talks, President 'Ali Khamene'i warned Tanriyar that the Iraqi Muslims would regard any help given to the Iraqi regime as "against their interests," IRNA noted. Meanwhile, Ankara's *ANATOLIA* disclosed that the Turkish Government is arming villagers living on the Iraqi border to fight the "separatist terrorists" and cited reports that Kurdish militants are moving toward Syria.

Libya

JANA claimed that a Libyan airliner landing at Athens International Airport was almost hit by "a rocket coming from the direction of a U.S. military air base." However, Greek officials said no such incident occurred and they denied JANA's assertion that the Libyan plane captain reported such an incident to the airport control tower, according to Nicosia radio.

Lebanon

Al-Jumayyil Libya Visit — President Amin al-Jumayyil arrived in Libya where he was received by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, JANA reported. Lebanese sources cited by AFP said their talks would cover Middle East developments and the reactivation of Arab financial aid to Lebanon.

Economic Measures — The Cabinet has agreed on a number of measures to restore economic stability, including a decision to instruct the security authorities to bring the fifth dock of Beirut Port under government control, Prime Minister Rashid Karami disclosed in a statement broadcast by Beirut radio after a Cabinet meeting in B'abda.

Palestinian Clashes — Lebanese Army units surrounded the Burj al-Barajinah area of southern Beirut to contain a clash between supporters and opponents of PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, according to security sources cited by Beirut radio.

PLO

At a meeting in Baghdad with Yasir 'Arafat, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn affirmed both his backing for the PLO's "legitimate leadership" and Iraq's readiness to give "all forms of moral and material support" to the PLO, Baghdad Voice of PLO reported. Later, 'Arafat asserted to a group of Palestinians in Baghdad that the PNC will meet by the end of November, the radio noted. In an interview cited by the radio, 'Arafat admitted that both Arab and non-Arab efforts to rectify Syrian-Palestinian relations before the PNC meets have "reached a dead end."

Israel

After hearing proposals of the Bank of Israel and the Treasury on how to remedy the country s economic crisis, Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has decided to negotiate a 'package deal' with the national labor union to begin November 1, Jerusalem radio reported. The plan would freeze wages and prices and reject 'dollarization' of the Israeli economy, the radio added.

Jordan

The experience of buying arms in Moscow was "successful" and the USSR has offered Jordan new weapons, Information Minister Layla Sharaf said in a press interview reported by WAKH.

Pakistan

Pakistani civilians were evacuated from the Punch District border with India as Indian and Pakistani troops continued a "heavy exchange of fire" which began on 18 October, Dhaka radio reported. However, reacting to "certain baseless, sensational reports carried by the Indian media," a press release from the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi cited by Karachi radio reaffirmed Pakistan's commitment to the "promotion of peace and friendship" with India and its readiness for talks on "any aspect" of their relations.

In a separate development, security forces in Sind Province were placed on alert as hundreds of students demonstrated against the alleged killing of "at least five" of their colleagues by police on 17 October, according to AFP. While Pakistani media have not been observed to report on the demonstrations or the alert, Karachi radio did announce that all schools and colleges in Hyderabad Division will "remain closed" until 26 October and that scheduled university examinations have been postponed.

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'Arafat: PLO To 'Astonish World' With New Operations

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[Text] London, Oct 25 (AFP) — The PLO will shortly "astonish the world with new and unexpected operations," PLO Chief Yasir 'Arafat said today in an interview to be published here Saturday. "Their nature will not be anticipated, nor even guessed at by anyone," Mr 'Arafat told the Arab-language weekly *AL-TADAMUN*. "The Palestinian Kalashnikov is in very good shape, and our military situation is good." There was a plot to kill him, Mr 'Arafat said, adding: "The enemy and some brothers are participating in the conspiracy. They want to kill me because they are afraid that I will disclose their secrets."

MONDAY MORNING Interviews PLO's Yasir 'Arafat

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[Interview with PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by unidentified *MONDAY MORNING* correspondent in Tunis — date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] There has been much speculation about whether the Palestine National Council would meet or not. What are the obstacles that are holding up a meeting of the council, and why do these obstacles exist?

['Arafat] Syria opposes the convening of the Palestine National Council, and it has recently been joined by Libya. As for the positive and negative factors surrounding the convening of the national council, I would like to make one point: There is Palestinian legitimacy, and this legitimacy must fulfill its role. The council was supposed to have met eight months ago, but Arab and non-Arab mediators (Saudi Arabia, Algeria, North Yemen, South Yemen, Tunisia, the Soviet Union and some of the non-aligned states) intervened in a bid to rectify Syrian-Palestinian relations prior to the convening of the council. So far these efforts have not produced any positive results.

[Correspondent] What are alternatives and options if the council does not meet?

['Arafat] The council must meet. We postponed its meeting in response to the request of our brethren and friends.

[Correspondent] Will it meet in Malta, Cyprus or Greece?

['Arafat] So far the Algerian brethren have not rejected the holding of council meetings in Algeria. We have invitations from other Arab countries which are willing to host the council meetings.

[Correspondent] In other words, there is no plan to hold the meetings on board a ship?

['Arafat] When we used that expression, we were repeating a statement made by some brethren to reaffirm Palestinian determination to convene the Palestine National Council, even if that meant holding the meetings on board a ship.

[Correspondent] Is it true that you are planning to convene a popular conference which would be attended by all Palestinian organizations, especially by representatives of the occupied lands?

['Arafat] There is a difference between a popular conference and meetings of the national council. The Palestine National Council includes 180 members who represent the occupied territories, but they are unable to attend meetings because of the Israeli decision imposing a ban on their leaving and on their participation in the council meetings. The Israelis say that anybody who leaves to attend meetings of the national council will not be allowed to return. These members are not counted within the quorum, so their absence does not affect the quorum requirements. We have held popular conferences in the past in Cairo, Lebanon and Syria. These conferences are convened from time to time to gather together the largest possible number of representatives of Palestinian groupings and popular organizations who are not able to attend meetings of the Palestine National Council. Our people within the occupied territories have held several popular conferences in Jerusalem, and have clearly stated, in both pronouncements and written declarations, their absolute support for the Palestine Liberation Organization and its leadership. This is not our claim; even the press of our enemies in the occupied land admits this fact.

[Correspondent] Will such a popular conference be a substitute for the Palestine National Council?

['Arafat] It will be a support for the council.

[Correspondent] Can the PLO be split, and can a second organization be set up?

['Arafat] The PLO is not the product of a decision taken by one side or another. It is the result of twenty years of blood, martyrdom, sacrifice and the rallying of our masses and people.

[Correspondent] In view of doubts raised about the popularity of the PLO, what, in your estimation, would be the proportion of popular support for the PLO and its leadership if a referendum were to be held under the supervision of a neutral authority?

['Arafat] I have something very important to say: The structure of the Palestine National Council is such that all the armed groups, Fatah included, are represented by no more than one-fourth of the council membership. Another one-fourth of the members represent popular organizations, and are elected from the grass-roots. Another one-fourth of the members represent Palestinian camps and communities, and the last fourth of the membership represents Palestinian effective forces and Palestinian figures who have a record of dedication to the struggle, and who constitute economic, intellectual, cultural, political and social strength. Even the old higher Arab authority is represented in the Palestine National Council. Our position is this: We welcome whoever is able to secure a majority within the Palestine National Council. We say to such; here you are.

[Correspondent] What would be the response if we were to go to the grass-roots?

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